

June 13, 2007
OPENING STATEMENT OF
THE HONORABLE RALPH HALL
RANKING MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MARKUP OF

H.R. 2304, The Advanced Geothermal Energy Research and Development Act of 2007
And
H.R. 2313, The Marine Renewable Energy Research and Development Act

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The two renewable energy R&D bills before us today are two more ways the Science Committee is helping to further our country's efforts to become energy independent. It's no secret that I'm an oil and gas guy, and that I fully support increasing our domestic supply of oil and gas. I would like to see our country do this in conjunction with our renewable and alternatives thrust. We still need affordable, reliable energy that comes from fossil fuels, while we do research such as that in the bills we are marking up today, in order for our country to continue to be a leader in all areas in the global community. Both bills will spur the use of domestic, renewable resources available to us within our borders and in our waters for the production of energy. While I support the thrust of the bills, I do have some concerns with them that will be addressed through amendments.

I have one to the geothermal bill that will address the production of geothermal energy from oil and gas wells and production of geopressured gas resources. It is my understanding that the Chairman is prepared to accept this amendment and I thank him. In addition, I will be offering an amendment to the ocean energy bill that will expand the areas of the country eligible to participate in research and development activities on marine renewable energy. I will go into these amendments in further detail as they are brought up for consideration.

As always, I look forward to the ensuing debate, and I yield back the balance of my time.